



Open Space Committee

Minutes

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Town Hall Annex, First Floor

Present: Wendy Richter, Brian Kelder, Nat Strosberg, Ann LeRoyer, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, and John Pickle

Absent: Jane Auger, Teresa DeBenedictis, Elena Bartholomew, Kelsey Cowan, and David White

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm
Minutes from June accepted without change.

Town Day – Sat, September 16 – Ann and others reported on a successful event with lots of interest in maps and walking routes. An Eagle Scout stopped by and shared that he was working on adding steps and working on the paths through the Crusher Lot near Ottoson Middle School. We should try to work with him to share information for walking routes.

Take A Walk – Nat reported that shortly OSC members will be able to work on-line in real time with Arlington's complete GIS database so we can decide how to create our information for the town, such as Take A Walk, and go live with it later (we can save what we create). It will be password protected. There is a good chance it will be ready by October meeting.

Brian noted that there was a free app to create Venzar pdf maps that works with cellphone location so you can see your location on the pdf map. But now it looks like it costs money to use this feature. Brian will look into what the changes mean for cost and usability for the Take A Walk efforts. He will also look for other apps that are free or possibly more robust. John will look into adding walking paths in Google Maps. Wendy would like to have both a regular pdf version for those with cellphones that may not have the capabilities of more sophisticated programs.

Anthony Beckwith (Cori Beckwith's husband) is biking all of Arlington's public (?) roads – we should talk with him about his thoughts for our Take A Walk planning. Ann will look up contact info. We need to know our private roads, private ways, and paper roads, too – and we need to know the current policies for access (and these can change quickly, as Elisabeth noted). We need to be sensitive to whether our Take A Walk routes increase traffic patterns on private ways/paper roads, which could lead to neighborhoods attempting to take away the access.

Wendy recommended that we should include locations of Picture Post locations on our Take a Walk route maps. For our Heights walks, we need GIS for Lexington data. Maybe gray in this data that isn't in Arlington, but the data will be there.

Heights map: still need to delineate routes electronically – we have done so on paper. Will we have a series of pdfs that show various walks or one larger map that people can zoom / pan and print on their own?

Municipal Vulnerability Preparation (MVP) Grant – Town has a \$23,000 grant for a Community Resilience Building and Ann shared there is an opportunity for people to work on the planning committee. We need some additional data to help people decide what the commitment is.

OSC Website -- ACMi interviews with Ann (general OSC info), John (Picture Post), and Kelsey (Take A Walk) are posted https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLztbi9KA9roXcy1HejLPWzyCz1Z_fot5b
Ann will contact Joan Roman to add link and blurb on OSC website.

CPA Projects – The deadline for the next round of CPA grants requests is coming up this week (Sept 29). Mystic River Watershed Assoc. is applying for a second phase of their project on Wellington Park/Mill Brook. Could stairs at Orient St. into Mt Gilboa be funded to be designed and built? This would be very beneficial for children walking to and from school. Elisabeth believes a number of groups would need to be involved to start the planning. Mt Gilboa is an historic district. It's probably too late for this year's funding opportunity.

“Homework” for next meeting: bring in information that we will input into the OSC tracking system on Google Docs – and bring laptops to work together to learn how to use the tracking system.

2017 Meeting Dates (4th or 2nd Thursdays) -- October 26, November 9, December 14

Submitted by John Pickle